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University of Massachusetts Boston

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# The UMass/Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 9  
November 27, 1992

News and information about and for the  
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

## University Receives \$270,000 NSF Grant To Upgrade Physics Curricula in Schools

UMass/Boston has been awarded \$270,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to begin a program that will increase high school science teachers' knowledge of physics and help them to improve physics curricula at their schools. The grant is part of an overall funding package of \$1.2 million that the NSF is distributing for the program among four University of Massachusetts campuses. The other grant recipients are Amherst, Dartmouth and Lowell. "The goal of the program is to help high school instructors to improve their presentations of contemporary physics," says UMass/Boston physics professor **Martin Posner**, a co-principal investigator and director of the University's program. "Nearly two-thirds of the high school teachers who teach physics were actually trained in another discipline." The other UMass/Boston physics faculty members who are involved in the program are **John Shane** and **Nareschandra Shah**, a co-principal investigator.

Beginning next summer and continuing through 1994, the University Physics Departments, Alliances and Teacher Enhancement (UPDATE) program will promote working relationships among physics teachers at Massachusetts high schools and physics departments at the four campuses. High school physics teachers this winter will submit applications, and each campus will select 24 from its area to participate in a three-week workshop next summer. Each campus also will assign a local high school instructor with physics expertise to serve as a mentor to those in the program. In the third week of the summer workshop, 16 of the more experienced physics teachers, chosen from among the 24 at each site, will be invited to participate in an intensive residential institute at Amherst. "At this institute," Posner says, "material will be covered on a slightly more sophisticated level, and several of the leading physics instructors in the country will give lectures."

The UMass/Boston workshop begins in July and will focus on concepts related to thermal physics and astronomy. Shane will give lectures, and other member of the University's physics faculty will lead the teachers in conducting laboratory experiments. The UPDATE program will continue throughout the 1993 school year, with teaching workshops taking place at the Harbor Campus and perhaps at local high schools. The program may bring well-known physicists to the campuses on a regular basis to meet with the teachers and discuss developments in physics education. The program will also arrange for high school teachers to acquire modern instruments for their physics laboratories through a lending program organized by the participating campuses. The physics department at each campus is planning to establish a resource center that will house and make available lab equipment.

**Campus Notes** -- On Tuesday, December 1, **Nigel Hamilton**, a visiting fellow at the McCormack Institute, will deliver a lecture on his widely acclaimed biography, *JFK: Reckless Youth*. His lecture will be part of a reception that will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the University Club. Those planning to attend should reserve seating by calling **Kathleen Foley** at 7-5550. Copies of *JFK: Reckless Youth*, which usually sells for \$30, will be available during the reception at the discounted price of \$25. Students can purchase the biography for \$18. • **Victor Day**, administrative assistant in the College of Nursing and a member of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Advisory Committee to the Affirmative Action and Multicultural



Relations Office, will appear on the Channel 56 affairs program, Mosaic, at 11:30 p.m. November 29. • **Gail Hobin**, director of community relations and special events, received on behalf of the University a 1992 Dorchester Business Award from the Board of Trade at a luncheon November 8. According to **Edward W. Forry**, awards chairman of the board, the University was honored for "having made a significant investment in the Dorchester community during the past 12 months." • **Robert Morris**, the Cardinal Medeiros visiting lecturer at the University and a senior fellow in the Gerontology Institute, has received the \$10,000 Maxwell A. Pollack Award from the Gerontological Society of America in recognition of his excellence in bridging the worlds of research and practice in gerontology. Morris is known for his work in helping to develop the Social/Health Maintenance Organization, benefitting thousands of older people.

The University's Second Annual Business Breakfast was held on Tuesday November 24. About 200 friends and supporters of UMass/Boston and the College of Management gathered at the Westin Hotel and heard a keynote address by **Peter Meade**, president and CEO of The New England Council. Management Dean **Daniel Shimshak** presented distinguished service awards to **Jacquie D. Arthur**, chair of the college's advisory board, and **Robert J. Haynes**, a University trustee and secretary/treasurer of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. **H. Jay Sarles**, president and CEO of Fleet Banking Group, was the master of ceremonies. • Boston's Citywide Educational Coalition has honored **Minnie Dixon** (Institute for Learning and Teaching/Graduate College of Education) for 20 years of service to children and parents in the Boston Public Schools. Dixon is director of the East Zone Parent Information Center. • **Karen O'Connor**, executive director of the Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning at the University, was honored by the Massachusetts Association of Teacher Educators as its "Educator of the Year." • **Elsa Auerbach** (English Department) will be working with an \$82,212 grant given by the National Institute for Literacy in Washington, D.C., to the Boston Adult Literacy Fund. She will develop a program model for training non-traditional literacy teachers to help families with limited English proficiency become self-sufficient.

CPCS' **James Jennings** has been asked by the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences to serve on its Committee on Increasing Minority Participation in the Health Professions. • **John M. McCrevan**, a graduate student in rehabilitation counseling who also assists in the University's computer lab, earlier this month received a Freedom Foundation George Washington Honor Medal. McCrevan, a quadriplegic/amputee who has been confined to a wheel chair for the last 25 years, was praised as "a young man with determination, patience, persistence, courage and an undying spirit." McCrevan last May earned a bachelor of science degree in physical education with a concentration in adaptive physical education and therapeutic recreation from the Human Performance and Fitness Program. • The U.S. Department of Education has awarded four grants totaling \$374,604 to **Donaldo Macedo** (English) for projects in teacher training, computer aided instruction, and bilingual community literacy. With colleague **Carol Chandler** he also received a \$50,000 Title I Student Literacy Corporation grant.

## **Collaboration Agreement Set With Canadian University**

Chancellor **Sherry H. Penney** signed an interinstitutional agreement on November 12 with **Howard Clark**, president of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Motivating the agreement is the common interest both campuses share in examining issues regarding marine science and coastal areas stressed by environmental contamination. The pact promises to lead to more formal and extensive collaboration between the two institutions on such matters of concern as the pollution of Boston and Halifax harbors. The universities are actively involved in research, monitoring and environmental management in the Gulf of Maine.